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BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Chairman of the Council.....A. E. Troop, Esq., J.P.
Vice-Chairman.....H. Ryden, Esq.

COUNCILLORS.

Parish	Councillor.
Balderstone	T. A. Simm.
Billington	A. E. Troop, J.P.
Clayton-le-Dale	J. H. Ainsworth.
Dinckley	J. W. Brewer.
Eccleshill	D. Smith.
Livesey	W. Grimshaw.
Mellor	E. L. Heyworth.
Osbaldeston	A. F. Walsh.
Pleasington	R. Yates.
Ramsgreave	T. Abbott.
Salesbury	W. H. Widders.
Tockholes	E. Miller.
Wilpshire	H. Ryden.
Yate & Pickup Bank	J. Yates, J.P.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.....C. M. Bradley, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.
Sanitary & Meat Inspector.....H. Eccleston, Cert.R.San.I., A. M. Inst. S. E. (Died 31st March, 1939.)
A. W. Craven, M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector. Commenced duty on the 1st July, 1939.
Clerk (Sanitary Inspector's Department).....P. Pickering (to 2nd September, 1939)
D. A. Love (temporary from the 25th September, 1939)

45, King Street,
Blackburn.
August, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Blackburn Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

In accordance with Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health, this report is in the nature of an interim one and will be confined to essentials only.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area in acres	19,472.
Population, Census 1931	11,232.
Number of inhabited houses, Census 1931	2,827.
-do- 1939, according to Rate Books	3,539.
Rateable Value	£66,954.
Estimated Product of 1d Rate	£266.

The social conditions and the general industries in the area are cotton-spinning and weaving, papermaking, brickmaking and agriculture. There is no evidence that the war has exerted any influence over the health of the inhabitants of the district either due to long hours or any other cause, and there were no cases of sickness or invalidity which were especially noteworthy.

General Provision of Health Services.

There have been no changes or developments during the year and the war has not exercised any influence on ambulance or laboratory facilities and they remain exactly as stated in my last Annual report

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

There has been no change in the piped supplies to the area and the remarks do not differ from those contained in the 1938 Report. Various works designed to protect the water from pollution were carried out to a well in Barker Lane, Mellor.

Rivers and Streams.
Drainage and Sewage.

The remarks under these headings do not differ from the 1938 Report.

Closet Accommodation.

Privy Middens...	Nil.
Pail Closets	784.
Fresh Water Closets...	2300.
Waste Water Closets...	81.
Number of Movable Ashbins...	1860.
Number of Dry Ashbins.	85.

Conversions during the Year 1939.

Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	4.

Scavenging.

There were no extensions during the year.

Sanitary Inspections.

Number of Premises Visited..	863.
Defects or Nuisances Discovered...	74.
Number Abated...	71.
Number of Notices served (informal)	23.
Number of Statutory Notices (Statutory).	Nil.

All the usual routine inspections were carried out regarding nuisances, schools, factories, tents, vans and sheds, etc.

Housing.

Number of New Houses Erected during the year :-

By the Local Authority.....	Nil.
By other bodies or persons.....	24.
By other Local Authorities.....	Nil.
Total	24.

Generally speaking, the housing conditions are fairly good although there are some, particularly in the rural Parishes, where some improvement is required. The war has caused very little change in the housing conditions.

No new overcrowding was reported or discovered during the year and as far as is known there is no statutory overcrowding in the area.

Clearance and Improvement Areas.

A considerable amount of work was done to four clearance areas within the district during the year under review but Orders were not made owing to the outbreak of war.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The Inspection of Dairy Farms and informal representations to owners continue. Some improvements were effected during the year. Farmers are under continual supervision in an attempt to keep them up to modern standards.

Meat and other Foods.

All carcases are inspected immediately after slaughter. Food preparing rooms and vehicles have been inspected fairly regularly.

During the year a considerable amount of work was done under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, under Sections 115 & 116 with regard to the storage and sale of the various Food Products mentioned therein.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

There have been no outbreaks of any infectious diseases during the year and all cases were sporadic. Disinfections were done as usual as required.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total cases at all ages.	Years												No. of cases admitted to Hospital	Total no. of deaths
		under 1.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever	10	-	-	2	1	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	-
Diphtheria	7	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	21	-	-	1	3	2	11	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	18	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	3	5	3	-	9
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS :-68		1	1	3	5	6	20	1	7	8	7	6	3	11	9

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
25 - 35 years	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	5	-	1	1	2	-	-